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AUTHOR	Levine, Arthur; Cureton, Jeanette S.
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ABSTRACT

This book reports on several studies of the attitudes of college students in the 1990s, tracing the differences which have developed in the last decade. A representative sample of 9,100 undergraduates was surveyed in 1993, and interviews and small focus groups were conducted with student body presidents, student newspaper editors, and student affairs officers at 28 campuses in 1993 to 1995. Results are detailed and analyzed in eight chapters. Chapter 1, "Generation without a Name," examines popular conceptions of today's college students. Chapter 2, "Flaws, Problems, and Decline: The New Localism," looks at the social and political world of students. Chapter 3, "Campus Politics: Let the Buyer Beware!" takes up campus politics and growing attitudes of consumerism and smaller student groups. Chapter 4, "Multiculturalism: the Campus Divided," reviews the state of multiculturalism on campus. Chapter 5, "Personal Life: Retreat from Intimacy" is concerned with college social life and Chapter 6, "Academics: Search for an Insurance Policy," takes up academics, noting a growing mismatch between the ways faculty teach and the ways students learn best. Chapter 7, "The Future: Doing Well or Doing Good," deals with student hopes and aspirations for the future, finding increasing anxieties. The concluding chapter, "A Transitional Generation," examines cycles of undergraduate generations, and offers recommendations for the current generation, seen to be a transitional generation in an age of discontinuity. Appendices provide details of the individual studies and a listing of individual contacts at the colleges. (Contains approximately 90 references.) (BF)

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